Re-launching of DD News Channel

521. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are re-launching Doordarshan news Channel-DD News;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for closing the channel; and

(c) the reasons for re-launching it?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no proposal to start a News Channel.

(b) The channel was closed down due to its high cost and low visibility.

(c) Does not arise.

Survey on Social and Economic impact of F.M. Stations

522. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that F.M. Stations are weaning away viewers fromTV channels;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to gauge its social and economic impact; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No authentic survey has so far been conducted in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Plan to telecast social awareness messages

523. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether DD plans to telecast social awareness messages on the population problem on its national and regional networks;

(b) whether more such issues would be taken up on DD; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan telecasts spots on population issues three to four times a day regularly on it National and Regional Networks. Major compaigns on Pulse-Polio, Female Foeticide, Malaria eradication, Iodine deficiency etc. are being telecast regularly on National and Regional Network of Doordarshan. Doordarshan has launched special compaigns for the World Population Day, HIV/AIDS and programmes on rural development schemes. Programmes on social issues in other genres such as Environment, Social Rights, Women's empowerment, Adult education, Poverty alleviation etc. are also telecast.

Concessions to foreign investors in print media

†524. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apprehensions of a big threat are being expressed following the provision of concessions to foreign investors in print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that concessions of this nature would not only affect the Indian economy but also increase the menace of cultural invasion;

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating to fix any norms for them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Government has only taken a decision to allow FDI upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs, on a case by case basis subject to suitable safeguards like verification of antecedents

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.